



STOP THE WORLD'S LARGEST ARMS FAIR



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Edition 1
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Defence & Security Equipment International (DSEi) is the world's largest arms fair. It takes place every two years in the second week in September at ExCeL – the huge exhibition centre in London Docklands. The Campaign Against the Arms Trade campaigns against DSEi and organises a peaceful protest outside the arms fair, while direct action against the arms fair is organised under the banner Disarm-DSEi. *stop the arms fair*

The Disarm DSEi collective has put together this pamphlet with some scribbles explaining why its important to mobilise to stop the DSEi arms fair this September. The arms fair isn't simply a 'peace' or 'anti-war' issue. The arms trade is a part of the system which is attacking us all, propping up the states which oppress us and the capitalist system which we are fighting against

The pamphlet discusses the arms fair from a number of different perspectives, environmentalism, the No Borders movement and in light of the uprisings in the Middle East and North Africa and the struggle for freedom in Palestine. We're also including a list of actions at previous DSEi arms fairs, to give you some hints, and some resources for those wishing to take action

See you on the streets...



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The Callout

This September, the world's biggest arms fair - DSEi - will be back at the ExCeL conference centre in London Docklands.

Over 1200 arms companies will be hawking their deadly wares to 25,000 buyers from around the world, including military delegations from repressive, human rights abusing regimes. This year, for the first time, the UK government will be inviting paramilitaries and border security forces.

Make no mistake; this is the big one - the nexus of capitalism, war and repression. Will we let this obscene event pass off unopposed? NO WE WON'T! We are calling on everyone to take part in the Day of Action against DSEi on Tuesday September 13th.

Last time DSEi came to town we had a raucous march around the banks that finance the arms industry. This year we'll target the ExCeL conference centre.

Previous Days of Action have included street parties, Critical Mass bike rides, die-ins, mock sales of "arms", legs and even a tank; splashing fake blood across the entrances, engaging with arms dealers on the trains and platforms, invading the car park and rail entrance, blocking the roads, locking on to the trains, even swimming in the dock!

And it's not all about the Day of Action: In previous years there have been visits to exhibitors' premises, and tripod and boat blockades to stop equipment from arriving at the arms fair. And of course we'll find out where the arms dealers' dinner is taking place on September 15th and spoil their party!

In the run up to the fair we are calling on groups around the country to hold actions against the high street banks that fund the arms trade. You might also want to pay a visit to your local arms dealer, which you can find on our map of DSEi exhibitors at <http://www.dsei.org/exhibitor-map>

What happens this year is up to all of us. Let's show these dealers of death how unwelcome they are. Let's Disarm DSEi!

For news, events and resources, keep an eye on dsei.org.

ACTION HISTORY

1999—at Chertsey

- A week long action camp helped people come together
- Mass blockades of roads over two days in Chertsey forced organisers to announce that they wouldn't allow people to drive on the Friday and they had to come by train
- On the Friday five or six trains were blockaded, including people sitting in roads, car actions, coach actions, tyre actions (in the car parks)
- Post-DSEI dinner also targeted: red dye spilt outside and protesters made several incursions into the hotel

2001—at ExCeL, London Docklands, from now on

- A CAAT demo at the the West entrance.
- March from Canning Town that was surrounded by cops as it massed and crept to the EXCEL
- Some blocking of the entrance at Custom House
- Critical Mass bike ride
- Folk swimming in the dock
- Red dye in the fountain at Trafalgar Square
- One train stopping action
- Mass demo outside the arms dealers' dinner

2003

- Warships coming into docks harassed and temporarily stopped by boats before opening
- CAAT demo first day of opening
- On the trains: Buddhists communicating with arms dealers, and others selling arms (and legs)
- Multiple actions stopping trains all week
- "Affinity group" did action inside ExCeL, having booked a stall!
- Blockade of East entrance on "fluffy" day (according to non-violent guidelines)
- Large moving blockades all day on "no guidelines" day, helped by a roving
- Critical Mass
- Day culminated in an RTS-style street party that was fairly quickly surrounded by police
- Rafael (arms dealers) office briefly occupied same day
- Various affinity actions also through day and week, including at dealers' hotels
- Mass demo at arms dealers' Thursday dinner, including Critical Mass
- Red dye in the fountains the night of the dinner

2005

- Street Party Saturday before opening
- Spoof paper delivered around Newham
- Attempt to block incoming warship with small boats prevented by cops
- CAAT march
- Family friendly "Baby Bloc" got close to ExCeL
- Day of Blockades, including invasion of Custom House station, road-block with lock-on and car, and roving posses
- Mass demo outside arms dealers' dinner and red dye in fountain
- Several effective train actions during the week

2007

- About 20 activists attempted to storm DSEI; invaded the car park at ExCeL but didn't make it inside
- London Catholic Workers poured fake blood and enacted a "die-in" at an entrance to the arms fair
- Critical Mass bike ride to ExCeL
- Space Hijackers' took a tank to the entrance of the arms fair and "auction" it to the highest bidder
- Princess of Wales fountain was dyed blood red to remember victims of cluster bombs
- Bikes Not Bombs Critical Mass tried to get to Dorchester Hotel to join demo of about 150 against arms dealers' dinner

2009

- Roving demonstration to target financial institutions that back the arms trade, including RBS, Barclays, Legal & General, Schroders, Lloyds and BT
- Banner drops outside Barclays and Legal & General and shoes thrown at both companies
- People write messages on window of Legal & General, including including "Wake up, your work kills people"
- BT offices invaded
- CAAT takes coach-loads of campaigners from ExCeL on an arms trade tour of London, ending at the headquarters of UKTI DSO – the government arms sales departments – where they hold a "fayre"

2011

- What will YOU do?

Making a Killing: Banking and DSEi

As Cameroon swanned around the exploding Middle East with his arms trader mates, only a couple of years after British Security experts had helped Gaddafi's Libya to restructure its "security services", it was hard not to remember the "highly impoverished" (UN grade) Tanzania being pushed into a military radar system they didn't need, and of course the Hawks-to-South Africa scandal (both BAE) of earlier years. Of the top 10 countries for the highest 5 expenditure on arms, 4 are in the bottom 25 (out of 177) for the Human Development Index. Remember that figure. And the hundreds of thousands still being killed, raped and/or driven from their homes, for example, in Africa's proxy wars

The multimillion pound multinationals mass producing instruments of slaughter need investors. Two years ago the Disarm DSEi Day of Action targeted the Banks and investors making a killing out of the arms trade. These scum haven't changed their spots: let's not forget them!

In the last 3 years, there may be ebbs and flows in the fine detail, but let's recall from then. And remember, these figures are to the nearest million pounds! Every high street bank except the Coop- Barclays* out front with £1400: followed by Lloyds TSB* with £717, HSBOS with almost £484, HSBC* £409. Then there's RBS* with a mere £36 and Santander £84. ("these banks included cluster bombs and depleted uranium munitions in their portfolio)

It's not just the Banks though - insurance companies depends on, well, killing people. So- in alphabetical order - Aviva £912; Axa £8466, F&C £398, Invesco £2614; Prudential £2422; Legal & General £2994; Schroeders £834; Standard Life £1157. And there are some surprising "small fish" out there. BT vigorously denied they had any money in the arms trade when their offices were invaded, later admitting the £56 million "must be our pensions scheme..." But they were dwarfed by the Universities Superannuation Scheme with £190 million. The Government of Norway stood at £70 million, BA at £33 million, and the National Grid at not quite £3 million.

They all have headquarters. They all have local branches. Just waiting for you to have a maybe not-so-quiet word!

For more detailed info, see Banking on Bloodshed at <http://bit.ly/dQICEO>

DSEi is a Palestine Solidarity Issue

"Israel's largest comparative advantage is in military products; because these demand advanced technology on one hand and military experience on the other... no country in the world is as dependent on arms sales as Israel. The Jaffa orange is fast being edged out of the public consciousness by the Uzi submachine gun as Israel's major export. Israel is the largest per capita arms exporter in the world"

Moshe Arens, former Israeli Defence Minister

"The Israeli government and its army have been for years now using the West Bank and Gaza as their testing ground. The Palestinians are their guinea pigs. The Israeli army uses tear gas that would probably be banned in any other countries in the world. They shoot tear gas, directly at protesters, once again, an illegal act. But a very rewarding one. Israel's security industry is booming. It's never been this good. Countries all over the world are buying Israel's expertise in security, crowd control and weaponry every day. Israeli soldiers are training other countries' commandos all over the planet"

From the blog, Bil'in: A Village of Palestine, 02/01/11

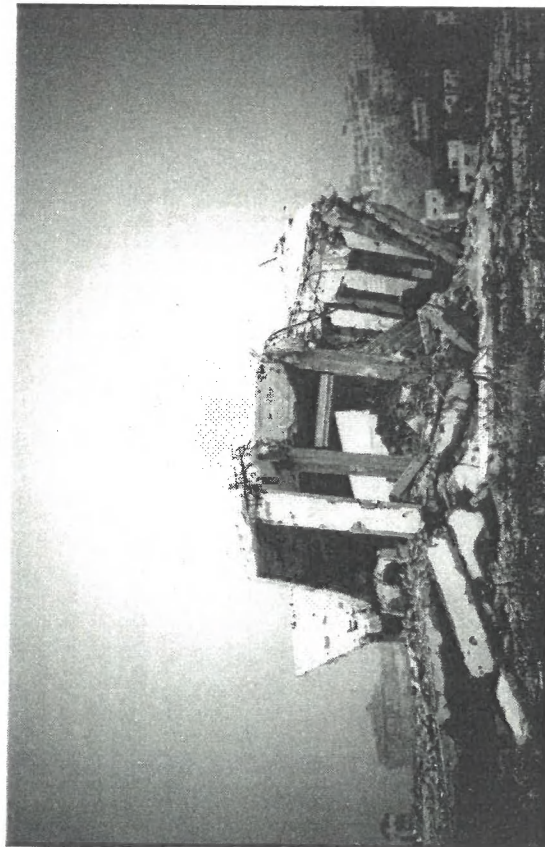
Since the brutal ethnic cleansing of Palestine during the Nakba of 1948, when 800,000 Palestinians were forcibly transferred from their homes, Israel has been waging a war of attrition against the indigenous Palestinians. In 1967 Israel occupied the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Golan Heights by military force and these territories have been under military occupation ever since. The ethnic cleansing of 1947-9 did not stop but is being carried on today, from the bombing of Gaza to the destruction of Bedouin villages in the Naqab (Israel) and the West Bank.

This constant state of war has taken its toll. Israel is one of the most militarized states in the world. Israeli military expenditure stood at 7% of GDP in 2008.² This figure is huge, compared to 4.3% total military expenditure in the USA or 2.5% in the UK.³

The 'defence' sector is crucial to the Israeli state's ability to maintain its militarist policies. The domestic military sector provides a large proportion of the weapons and equipment used by the Israeli military against Palestinians, as well as high-tech repression and surveillance technologies used in the apartheid wall and checkpoints to 'police' the occupation.

The repression, murder and ethnic cleansing of the Palestinians has provided a fertile testing ground for the development of increasingly specialised equipment. Israeli military equipment is frequently marketed as combat-proven or battle tested after having been used on protestors in Palestinian villages like Bil'in, Nil'in, Al Masara and An Nabi Saleh.

Israel's participation at DSEi is organised by SIBAT, a department of the Israeli government responsible for the IDF's arms procurement.



Khan Yunis, Gaza 2006 ©zoriah (www.zoriah.com)

DSEi and the Middle Eastern and North African uprisings

In the last few months popular uprisings have taken place in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Syria, Yemen and Bahrain and with smaller manifestations of a general change in mood being staged in dozens of other countries. Whilst the people are showing their hunger for freedom and an end to dictatorships, Western "democracies" have been both slow and somewhat contradictory in their responses, seemingly pondering how they can stay in control of affairs after the fall of their puppet dictators, whilst at the same time giving the impression that they support the protesters. With a lot of battles still being fought (Libya, Bahrain, Syria, Yemen) and the future in "post-revolution" Egypt looking less certain than you might have hoped, one thing is for sure: whatever happens the military industrial complex will have benefitted from it all.



Benghazi 2011

For years leading up to the "Arab Spring", arms companies have exported equipment to the regimes which are now being condemned by Governments rapidly backtracking on their support. A report issued in April this year confirmed that since 2009 the UK have exported components for military helicopters to

Algeria, sub-machine guns and tear gas to Bahrain, machine guns to Egypt and hand grenades to Jordan. British defence contractors have also sold small arms ammunition to Syria, hand grenades, sniper rifles and tear gas to Saudi Arabia and shotguns to Morocco.¹ Tear gas canisters made by the American company Combined Systems International - routinely used by Israel to repress demonstrations in the West Bank - were being used against Tahrir Square occupiers in Egypt and evidence of CS gas which may have been made in the UK has been found on footage from attacks by the Syrian security forces.²

Spanish banks, such as Santander, have been found to invest in companies who have sold cluster munitions to Qaddafi.³

Embarrassingly, it has also come to the surface that Britain have been training the Saudi elite troops who were brought in to violently crush the uprising in Bahrain through the 'British Military Mission to the Saudi Arabian National Guard'.⁴

Even when the acceptability of providing a certain country with questionable equipment suddenly changes, the arms industry tend not to have to worry about the loss of profits. The perfect example of this is Libya. Between October 2009 and October 2010 the UK exported military and related products to Libya to the tune of £33,899,335, including ammunition, crowd control equipment and tear gas.⁵ Hellfire missiles, Paveway bombs, Brimstone missiles, Tomahawk cruise missiles and unmanned Predator drones are being used to fight the people who were sold these items in the first place as we speak.

Whatever future lays ahead for the Arab rebels, the arms companies will be the ones making a killing - and they will all be exhibiting at DSEi.

¹ http://www.spacewar.com/reports/Arms_sales_to_Arabs_states_under_fire_999.html
² Corporate Watch <http://www.corporatewatch.org.uk/?id=3933>
³ Corporate Watch <http://www.corporatewatch.org/?id=3973>
⁴ The Guardian <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/may/28/uk-training-saudi-troops>
⁵ For a report about all UK arms sales to the Middle East and North Africa see The Guardian <http://www.guardian.co.uk/news/datablog/2011/feb/22/uk-arms-sales-middle-east-north-africa>

DSEi and the Border Regime

We see thousands of people every year fleeing their so-called countries of origin in sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and Asia, hoping for a better life. Whilst the majority will move to nearby countries, a few will attempt the long and dangerous journey to the UK. It is impossible to determine exactly how many people are forced to migrate directly because of war. However, what is clear is that the position of wealth and privilege in the global north is, to a large extent, the result of continuous war.

War is big business and a major industry that thrives on crisis. It will ensure constant crisis either by physical force or by political discourses that should prevent a lack of finances: e.g. due to unrest in countries XYZ starving waves of refugees are expected to wash up on our shores. This threat narrative we saw reproduced in the NATO strategy paper as discussed at the Strasbourg summit in April 2009. Outside the summit premises crowds clashed with the French riot police. Inside NATO strategists laid out an array of threats existing in today's uncertain world, from terrorism and transnational crime to unrest following food crises, extensive migration to the countries of the NATO alliance, and social conflicts as a result of climate change or mass unemployment. Pre-emption and prevention were the buzz words entailing a "comprehensive approach" of the military, police, politics, and academics, and the further blurring of internal and external security to build up a "global security architecture".

We can already speak of a global market boom in databases, biometric readers, data mining programs and other new technologies of control, with multinational corporations poised to make huge profits at DSEi. Border control staff are this year also invited to the arms fair to find out the latest in "processing", "profiling", "sorting", "filtering", and eventually "containing", or "rejecting" people. They can continue their stroll in the worlds largest Robotics and Unmanned Systems Showcase area. The Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) displayed here, also referred to as "drones", have already been deployed in bombing exercises in Afghanistan. Drones are about to be integrated in the military arsenal that should stop migrant vessels from reaching European shores. The idea is one of total control and complete knowledge on what is happening on both sides of the border and so further enhancing the walls of the fortress.

This post-cold war military-managerial apparatus is yearly costing the lives of many who are trying to cross borders in spite of the latest technological advances in security, surveillance and control. These people are suffocating in containers, drowning in rivers and seas, exploding on mine fields, or are being shot by border guards. In contesting people's freedom of movement European states are waging war against the very group of refugees it helped to create.

Militarism: the Environmental Cost

"Warfare in the modern era...results in environmental destruction of such a degree that it has been described as ecological holocaust."

Let's look at the different aspects-

The U.S. military is responsible for half of the worldwide use of CFC which accounts for 13 percent of overall ozone depletion. CO2 as a result of military activity up to 10% of total global emissions the world's military forces are responsible for the release of more than two-thirds of CFC-113 into the ozone layer. The US military is the world's single largest polluter & generates more toxics annually than the top five chemical companies combined. The Pentagon is the single largest consumer of oil worldwide. The Environmental Impacts of War: hardly needs stating. Burning oil wells, (e.g. the largest oil spill ever to hit the Mediterranean). The cluster bombs and depleted uranium munitions littering the countryside, killing, mutilating, and poisoning. The defoliated landscape after chemical spraying, or indeed massive forest fires, Down to bombed sewage systems poisoning the groundwater.

In 1989. The Department of Defence purchased 2 billion barrels of oil for military use in 1989 - enough to run all of the U.S. public transit systems for 22 years. With Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya that's likely to be a lot higher now! Approximately one quarter (42 million tons per year) or the world's jet fuel is used by armed forces. The worldwide military use of aluminium, copper, nickel and platinum is greater than the entire Global South demand for these materials. Globally, up to 1.5 million km² of land are controlled by armed forces (same size as Mongolia), not including the area occupied by arms producing companies.

Even War Games cause severe degradation. Bombing ranges transform the land into wasteland. Shooting ranges for tanks and artillery contaminate soil and groundwater with lead and other toxic residues. Recovery can take thousands of years. Nuclear test sites = permanent contamination. Not to mention the low-level flights, which disrupt wildlife migrations and behavioural patterns. "Anywhere in the world, a military presence is the single most reliable predictor of environmental damage." Virtually all of the world's nuclear bomb test sites, as well as most uranium mines and radioactive dumps, occupy Native lands. Not unlike other toxic military activities. The US military (the world's single largest polluter) is responsible for 27,000 toxic hot spots on 8,500 current and former military properties.

But even where no military is present the environmental impact of the industry supporting it is devastating. Take for example- the cost of aluminium production. 30% of all aluminium produced goes to the arms trade. Aluminium smelting is one of the most environmentally destructive processes. Bauxite is the raw material. It involves destruction of tropical rainforests, appropriation of indigenous lands, and chemical pollution to river and groundwater systems. 'Land regeneration' is a total myth, as can be seen in e.g. Jamaica, India, Trinidad, Australia. Aluminium smelting requires vast energy input - thus 'clean energy' produced by damming all of Iceland's major glacial rivers and destroying Europe's last remaining great wilderness

It's not simply that militarism causes massive environmental damage. It's also that, even if we arbitrarily separate them, they are both parts of the same system of domination, oppression, and destruction. Capitalism results in the need for continuous war and the military-industrial complex. It also demands ever increasing rates of resource extraction - with the inevitable environmental degradation and climate change that results.

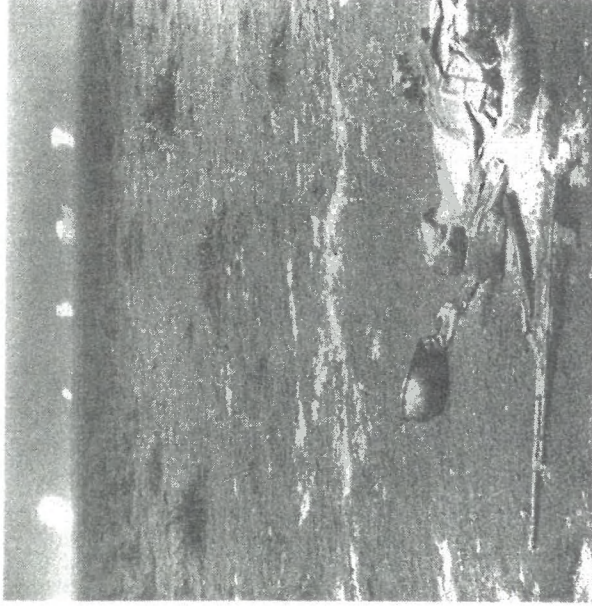


Photo: Sebastian Salgado, Kuwait, 1991

* For more info see the International Peace Bureau Briefing Paper - THE MILITARY'S IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT: A NEGLECTED ASPECT OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT DEBATE http://www.ipb.org/it/pdf-files/The_Militarys_Impact_on_the_Environment.pdf

What is an Affinity Group?

An affinity group is a small group of 5 to 20 people who work together autonomously together on direct action or other projects. You can form an affinity group with your friends, people from your community, workplace, or organization.

Affinity groups challenge top-down decision-making and organizing, and empower those involved to take creative direct action. Affinity groups allow people to "be" the action they want to see by giving complete freedom and decision-making power to the affinity group. Affinity groups by nature are decentralized and non-hierarchical, two important principles of anarchist organizing and action. The affinity group model was first used by anarchists in Spain in the late 19th and early 20th century, and was re-introduced to radical direct action by anti-nuclear activists during the 1970s, who used decentralized non-violent direct action to blockade roads, occupy spaces and disrupt "business as usual" for the nuclear and war makers of the US. Affinity groups have a long and interesting past, owing much to the anarchists and workers of Spain and the anarchists and radicals today who use affinity groups, non-hierarchical structures, and consensus decision making in direct action and organizing.

AFFINITY GROUP RÔLES

There are many rôles that one could possibly fill. They include:

Medical - An affinity group may want to have someone who is a trained street medic who can deal with any medical or health issues during the action.

Legal observer - If there are not already legal observers for an action, it may be important to have people not involved in the action taking notes on police conduct and possible violations of activists rights.

Media - If you are doing an action which plans to draw media, a person in the affinity group could be empowered to talk to the media and act as a spokesperson.

Action Elf/Vibes-watcher - This is someone who would help out with the general wellness of the group: water, massages, and encouragement through starting a song or cheer. This rôle is not a necessity, but may be particularly helpful in day long actions where people might get tired or irritable as the day wears on.

Traffic - If it is a moving affinity group, it may be necessary to have people who are empowered to stop cars at intersections and in general watch out for the safety of people on the streets from cars and other vehicles.

Arrest-able members - This depends on what kind of direct action you are doing. Some actions may require a certain number of people willing to get arrested, or some parts of an action may need a minimum number of arrest-ables. Either way, it is important to know who is doing the action and plans on getting arrested.

Jail Support - Again, this is only if you have an affinity group who has people getting arrested. This person has all the arrestees contact information and will go to the jail, talk to and work with lawyers, keep track of who got arrested etc.

HOW TO START AN AFFINITY GROUP

An affinity group could be a relationship among people that lasts for years among a group of friends and activists, or it could be a week long relationship based around a single action. Either way, it is important to join an affinity group that is best suited to you and your interests.

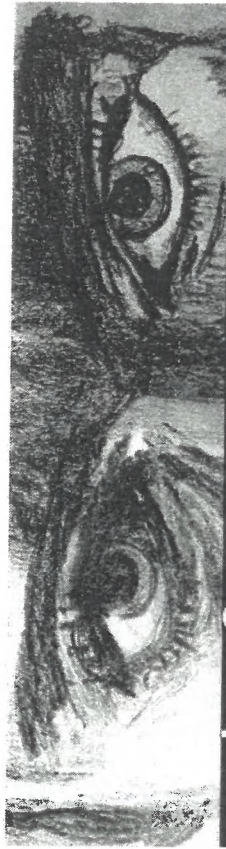
If you are forming an affinity group in your city or town, find friends or fellow activists who have similar issue interests, and thus would want to go to similar actions. Also, look for people who would be willing to use similar tactics - if you want to do relatively high risk lockdowns, someone who does not want to be in that situation may not want to be in the affinity group. That person could do media or medic work, but it may not be best if they are completely uncomfortable around certain tactics of direct action.

If you are looking to join an affinity group at a mass action, first find out what affinity groups open to new members and which ones are closed. For many people, affinity groups are based on trusting relationships based around years of friendship and work, thus they might not want people they don't know in their affinity group. Once you find which affinity groups are open, look for ones that have an issue interest or action tactic that you are drawn to, like a Free Tibet affinity group or a blockade affinity group.

WHAT AN AFFINITY GROUP CAN DO

Anything!!! They can be used for mass or smaller scale actions. Affinity groups can be used to drop a banner, blockade a road, provide back-up for other affinity groups, do street theater, block traffic riding bikes, organize a tree sit, change the message on a massive billboard, play music in a radical marching band or sing in a revolutionary choir, etc.... There can even be affinity groups who take on certain tasks in an action. For instance, there could be a roving affinity group made up of street medics, or an affinity group who brings food and water to people on the streets.

What makes affinity groups so effective for actions is that they can remain creative and independent and plan out their own action without an organization or person dictating to them what can and can't be done. Thus, there are an endless amount of possibilities for what affinity groups can do. Be creative and remember: direct action gets the goods!



mask up?

*"If you're doing nothing wrong,
you should have nothing to hide..."*

Wrong?

*They made right and wrong to keep us down - so If
we're doing something "wrong" we're probably getting
something right.*

*They enforce their right and wrong with surveillance,
police and a possible lifetime in prison, so if we're
going to challenge anything effectively....*

... we have everything to hide

*let's all mask up, whether or not doing something illegal
let's think before taking pictures at our demos
let's stop journalists taking pictures of us
and let's be careful about what gets put on facebook*

*They use our faces to set us apart, but we know we're
together. If we all hide our identities, they can't single
us out, and we protect one another...*